

HOUSE BILL 1539

L2, Q2

0lr3311

By: **Delegate Conaway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Property Taxes – Limitation**

3 FOR the purpose of limiting the rate of increase of certain property taxes in Baltimore
4 City to a certain amount; providing for certain exceptions to the limitation;
5 submitting this Act to a referendum of the legally qualified voters of Baltimore
6 City; and generally relating to property taxes in Baltimore City.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 The Charter of Baltimore City
9 Article II – General Powers
10 Section (39)(a)
11 (2007 Replacement Volume, as amended)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **The Charter of Baltimore City**

15 Article II – General Powers

16 The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall have full power and authority to
17 exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to it by the Constitution of
18 Maryland or by any Public General or Public Local Laws of the State of Maryland; and
19 in particular, without limitation upon the foregoing, shall have power by ordinance, or
20 such other method as may be provided for in its Charter, subject to the provisions of
21 said Constitution and Public General Laws:

22 (39)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) **(1) [To] SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF**
2 **THIS SUBSECTION, TO** assess for tax purposes, levy annually and collect taxes upon
3 every description of property found within the corporate limits of the City which the
4 City is authorized by law to levy tax upon for the purpose of defraying the expenses of
5 the municipal government, whether the owners thereof reside within or without the
6 limits of the City.

7 **(2) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS**
8 **CHARTER, FOR THE TAX YEAR 2011–2012 AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT TAX YEAR,**
9 **THE PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED BY THE CITY MAY NOT EXCEED THE PROPERTY**
10 **TAX REALIZED BY THE CITY FOR THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR EXCEPT AS**
11 **PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

12 **(II) FOR THE TAX YEAR 2011–2012, AND FOR ANY**
13 **SUBSEQUENT TAX YEAR, THE CITY PROPERTY TAX MAY BE INCREASED, BUT BY**
14 **NO MORE THAN 2 % OVER THE PROPERTY TAX REALIZED BY THE CITY FOR THE**
15 **PRECEDING TAX YEAR.**

16 **(III) THE LIMITATION PROVIDED FOR IN THIS PARAGRAPH**
17 **DOES NOT APPLY TO PROPERTY TAXES OR SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO PAY THE**
18 **INTEREST AND REDEMPTION CHARGES ON ANY INDEBTEDNESS APPROVED BY**
19 **THE VOTERS PRIOR TO THE TIME THIS ACT BECOMES EFFECTIVE.**

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That before this Act becomes
21 effective it shall first be submitted to a referendum of the legally qualified voters of
22 Baltimore City at the general election to be held in November of 2010. The City
23 governing body and the Baltimore City Board of Elections shall do those things
24 necessary and proper to provide for and hold the referendum required by this section.
25 If a majority of the votes cast on the question are “For the referred law” the provisions
26 of this Act shall become effective on the 30th day following the official canvass of votes
27 for the referendum, but if a majority of the votes cast on the question are “Against the
28 referred law” the provisions of this Act are of no effect and null and void.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions
30 of Section 2 of this Act and for the sole purpose of providing for the referendum
31 required by Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2010.